

# Czechoslovakia

## I. Kindred Peoples Linked in a Single State

By Walter Jerrold

Author of "The Danube," etc.

**T**HE peoples who together form the new republic of Czechoslovakia—Czechs (or Bohemians), Moravians, Slovaks, Ruthenes, and Teutons—occupy a beautiful and beautifully diversified country of central Europe, some six hundred miles in length from east to west, and in parts extending to about two hundred in breadth. The Czechs themselves mainly occupy Bohemia, where they form roughly two-thirds of the population of about seven millions.

The Czechs, including the Moravian branch and the Slovaks, are in the main descendants of those Slavic tribes which pushed farthest to the westward, displacing or mixing with the Celtic Boii, who had settled there at some undetermined pre-Christian period, and their earlier Germanic conquerors the Marcomanni. The country which these Slavic tribes occupied—the upper basin of the Elbe and its tributaries—was shut off from still farther western neighbours by high mountains, and those ranges are to a great extent the boundaries of the new state formed by the grouping of these peoples mostly of allied origin. In the north-west, however, there are districts that are almost wholly German in population, and these

include the well-known watering-places Karlsbad (now Karlovy Vary), Marienbad (now Mariánské Lázně), and Franzensbad (now Františkovy Lázně).

Behind their mountain ramparts, in a richly fertile country consisting for the most part of vast forest tracts, the Bohemians and their kindred remained for long the least known of the peoples of mid-Europe. The mountains dividing the people from their Teutonic neighbours helped to preserve them in days of limited means of communication from the Germanising influences which affected other tribes of Slav origin that penetrated into Europe farther to the north.

Thus it is that we find to-day a people—a great people—who have developed their own culture in a remarkable way.

Though isolated, as it were, from much of early Western civilization, the Czechs came under something of the wave of humanism that marked the Middle Ages. Through the Church (Christianity had become general in the country in the ninth century) and the University of Prague, which was established in the fourteenth century, Bohemia came indeed to be a centre of culture, though somewhat off that broad highway which extended from Oxford to the



A MAID OF SLOVAKIA

This pretty girl of Ruzomberok is a blaze of colour. It is not surprising that the girls of Slovakia cling tenaciously to their beautiful national dress

Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son

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Italian cities. Early in the fifteenth century Bohemia produced a great pre-Lutheran reformer in the martyred John Hus.

In the fourteenth century the people of that country, too, began to be in touch with the English, first in enmity and later in amity. It was at the Battle of Crecy that the blind King John of Bohemia, refusing to retreat before the victorious English, exclaimed: "So will it God, it shall not be that a King of Bohemia flies from the battlefield." Those brave words became a proverb among the Czéch people, and it was the badge of that Bohemian king, says tradition, which came to be that of the heir to the English throne, the now familiar "Prince of Wales's feathers."

A generation or so later Richard the Second of England married the Bohemian Princess Anne, sister of King Wenceslas. An earlier Wenceslas was the good king who is commemorated in

the popular English Christmas carol. A later connexion of England with the Czech people was early in the seventeenth century, when the British Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James the First, married the Elector Palatine Frederick, who was later elected King of Bohemia, but lost his crown at the disastrous Battle of the White Mountain (1621), which placed the Czechs and their kindred under the subjection of Austria.

It was, perhaps, in some measure owing to the nature of that subjection that the Czechs developed into what may be regarded as the most practical and self-reliant of the Slav peoples. They were a hard-working people, both agriculturally and later on industrially, occupying a rich and fertile country, which came to be the chief productive part of the Austrian Empire. To the rigour of their long subjection may be referred that hardness of attitude towards the Germans that is



CONVENTIONAL BIBS AND TUCKERS OF HOLY DAYS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
The polished Wellington boots are an interesting feature of their smart Sunday costumes, but on weekdays during the warm weather it is usual for these peasant girls of Postýén to go barefooted about their work in field or at home. The children of the poorer peasants seldom know the comfort or discomfort of footgear, and their tough little feet are indifferent to stones, mud, or even snow

Photo, A. W. Cuiller





#### NATURAL GRACE ENHANCED BY NATIONAL DRESS

Slovakia is said to be a museum of folk art, and the costumes of this charming quartette from Turciarsky Sv. Martin, adequately represent those wonderful products of Slovak needles, which can be ranked with some of the finest peasant handiwork in the world. But modern commerce is beginning to play havoc with the peasants' art, and the lovely costumes of Czechoslovakia are donned more frequently as festal than as everyday dress

*Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son*

generally observable in conversing with Czech men and women, though in the new Republic the German minority is given an equality which had been denied the Czech majority up to the change brought about by the Great War.

To the present-day visitor, Czechoslovakia offers infinite variety of magnificent mountain and beautiful forest scenery, but when about the middle of the fifth century the Slav tribes known as Czechs penetrated and took possession of the country, it was far more extensively covered with forest. That Böhmerwald, or Bohemian Forest, that lies along part of its western bounds, may well be regarded as but a remnant of the vast woodlands in which the new people set up their homes.

The early story of the Czechs is—as with most nations—a blending of

romantic legend and history, so interwoven with tradition that it is not possible to say at any point here is the definite beginning. They tell of an early ruler named Krokus, or Krok, who had three daughters, and when he died it was the youngest of these, Libusa, who was chosen by the people to be their ruler. "She was a wonderful woman among women; chaste in body, righteous in her morals, second to none as judge over the people, affable to all and even amiable, the pride and glory of the female sex, doing wise and manly deeds; but as nobody is perfect, so this praiseworthy woman was, alas! a soothsayer."

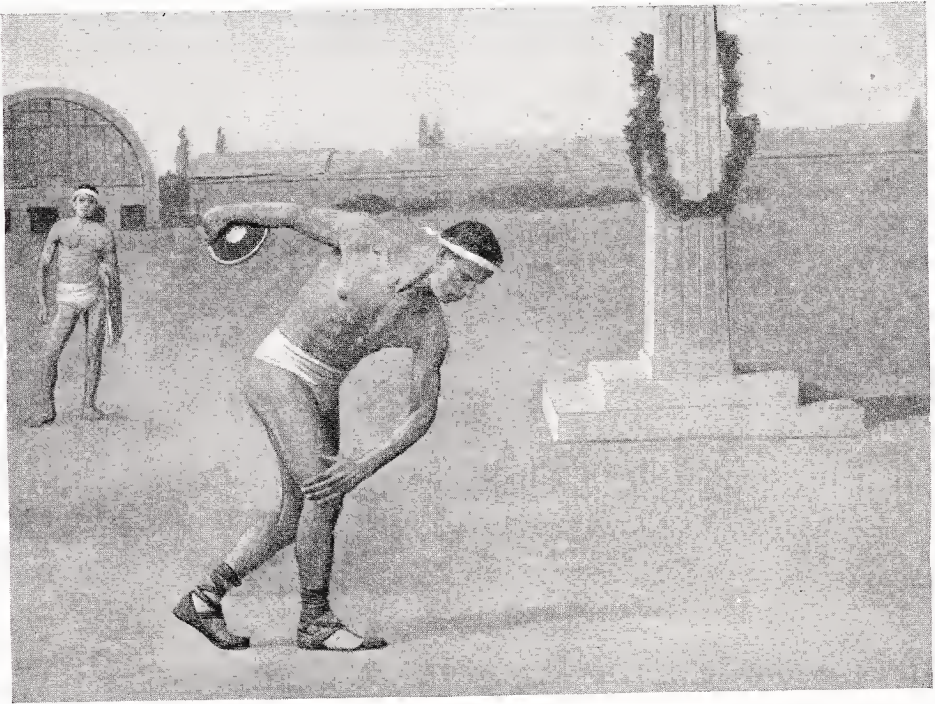
Now Libusa, having to decide a dispute between two nobles, was insulted by the one against whom she decided, and, declaring the people too

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ferocious for a woman's rule, bade them choose a man to rule over them, and him she would marry. The people replied, let her choose a husband, and him they would acknowledge as prince. Libusa agreed, and said: "Behind those hills is a small river called Belina, and on its bank a farm called Stadic. Near that farm is a field, and in that field your future king is ploughing with two oxen marked with various spots.

in the character of the people to-day. They are at once—as those of us who have visited their country again and again are well aware—romantic and practical, artists and husbandmen, and possessed withal of an intensely national and patriotic feeling, deepened and strengthened by many generations of repressive rule on the part of Austria.

An active, intelligent people, the Czechs are excellent workers at home,



LIVING DISCOBOLUS IN THE STADIUM AT LETNA

The Society of the Sokols was organized in 1862 under the leadership of Dr. Tyrs, the first Chief Sokol, and Jindrich Fügner, the first President. Primarily, the Society was founded as a simple Athletic and Gymnastic Association, but the Sokols of the present day include in their programme instruction in civics and ethics; in short, all matters which promise the betterment of the nation

His name is Premysl (Prshemysl), and his descendants will reign over you for ever. Take my horse and follow him, he will lead you to the spot." And so it befell.

That story has been made the subject of one of his national operas by the Czech composer Smetana, and in its idealisation of the woman ruler and its sustained popularity as a story of Czech beginnings we may not unfairly see something of the best that is found

and as emigrants have been hailed in the United States of America as some of the most satisfactory, though it is remarked there that they retain in a new country that strong national and race feeling of which we find evidence on all hands. Though in many country places old religious customs are retained, and in some of the great monasteries and churches gorgeous religious ceremonies may still be seen, the people as a whole are not deeply religious—the





### GRAND PARADE OF SOKOLS IN THE CITY OF PRAGUE

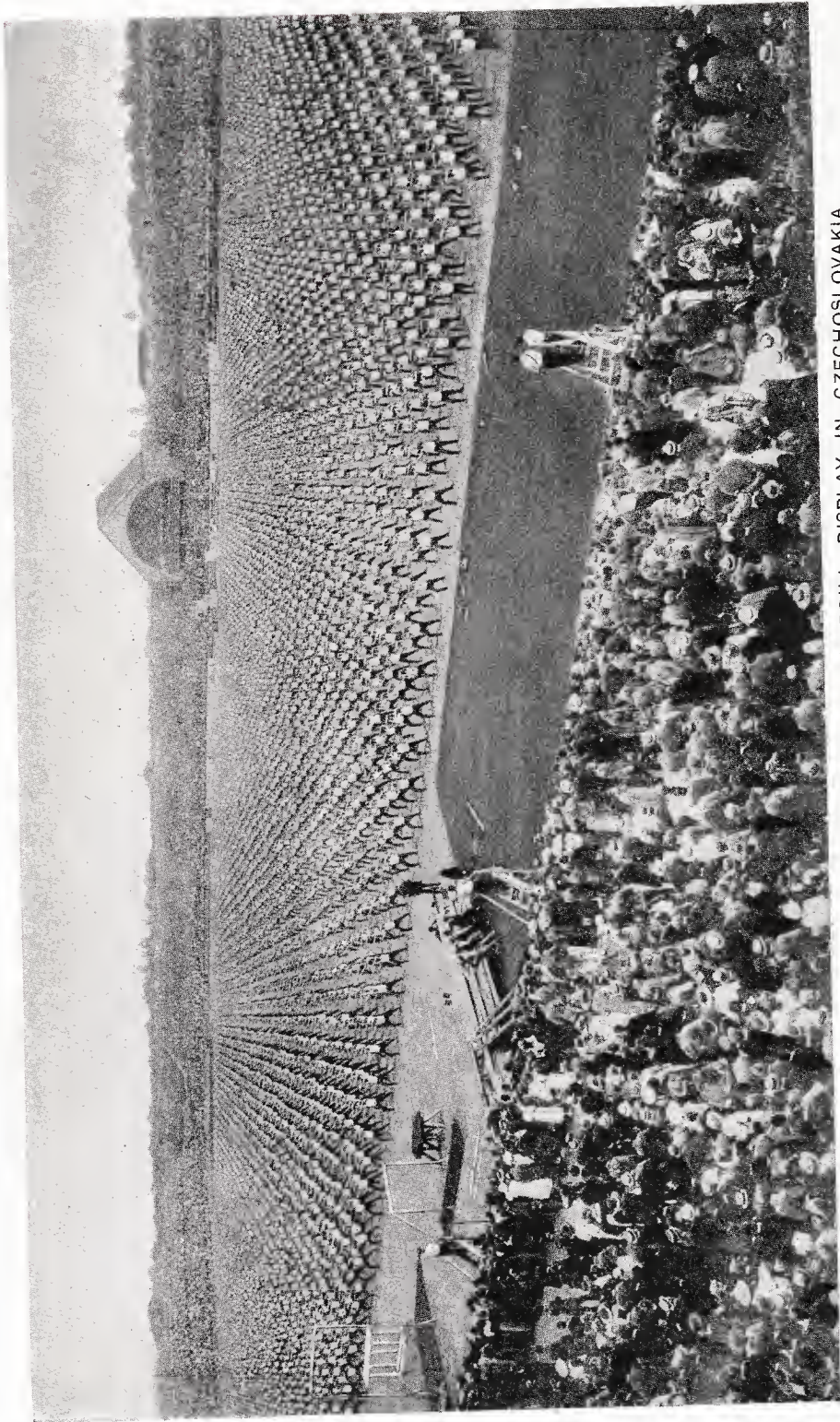
Sokol in Czech signifies "Falcon," and the idea was that the Sokols should be as agile and fearless as this intrepid bird. The men of the society number well over 300,000; they wear a special dress and a round cap with two falcon feathers on its left side. The society has been undoubtedly the most forceful factor in the social unification of the Bohemian people



### MARCH-PAST OF A COMPANY OF WOMEN SOKOLS

There are many thousands of women and girl Sokols, and all receive gymnastic training. There is no class difference among them, either within or without the society. All members regard one another as brothers and sisters, and all work for the welfare of their compatriots. The principles of the society are Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity; its motto is "Tuzme se" (Let us be strong)





**MARVELLOUS SPECTACLE OF A SOKOL PHYSICAL DRILL DISPLAY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

The mass drill of 12,000 athletes carrying out various exercises together, and yet absolutely as one person, is a sight never to be forgotten. The remarkable and wonderful evolutions of these loose-limbed, finely-built men speak well for the careful training that can ensure such magnificent results, and according to the testimony of one spectator, "As examples of perfect training and organization, nothing in the world compares with the great mass drills of the men and women Sokols."



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promptness with which the state religion was changed on the establishment of the Republic was strong evidence of this. They are inclined "to believe what they see and are sure of," it has been said, and have but little feeling for any of the mysticism of religion.

Something of the romantic and intensely national feeling may still be seen in the way in which the national music, national art and architecture, and other manifestations of the Czech genius are encouraged. They are markedly musical, and in Dvořák and Smetana have given two great composers to the world. Not only in Prague, but in the smaller towns music is studied and practised with fervent appreciation. Along with keen appreciation of native work, there is to be recognized an avid desire for the acquisition and utilisation of the cultural products of other nations.

It would scarcely be an exaggeration, I think, to say that the plays of Shakespeare are produced well-nigh as often by the Czechs as by the British, while they are at the same time justly proud that their composers Dvořák and Smetana have won reputations throughout the world of Western music. English and French drama and literature are indeed widely welcomed by the educated Czechs, and rendered into their language—not only, as one is made to feel, in genuine appreciation, but also in a general desire for the uplifting of their own people, for I have found, even among the most travelled of them, a strong feeling of national pride.

That national pride, and something of that fine romantic feeling which clings to the old manifestations of a

nation's individuality, may be seen in the way in which the picturesque costumes of the country people in the different districts have been maintained, though there is now a noticeable tendency towards decreasing its use. Prague—as is the way of capital cities—tends to show something of a dull cosmopolitanism in dress, except on occasions of national festivity; but on



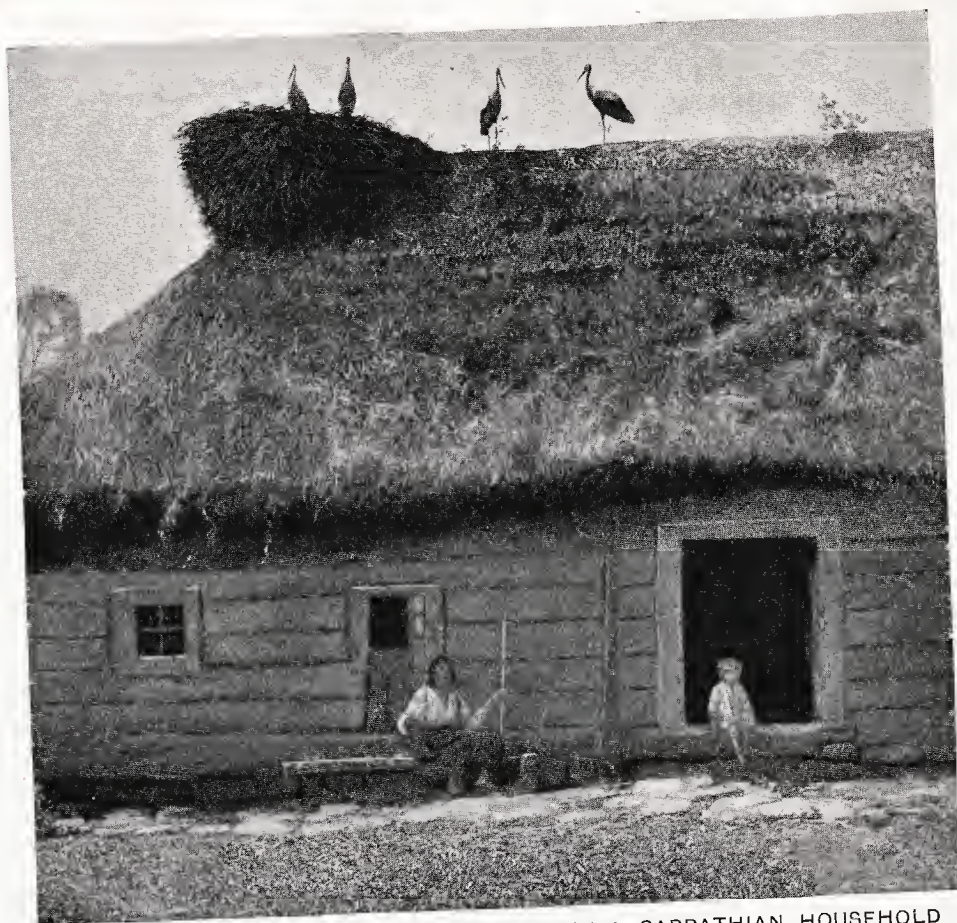
**COUNTRY COUPLE OF CONSERVATIVE MORAVIA**

These are types of the thick-set, homely peasants to be found on the mountainous plateau of Moravia. Their quaint costumes give them a fantastic appearance. Many of them might have stepped from the posters of a comic opera

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

such occasions, when the peasants come in in their Sunday best from the surrounding country, and visitors from more distant parts throng the capital, there may still be seen much of the dress that seems to harmonize with the beautiful older buildings of the Golden City, as the Czechs themselves affectionately term it.

A sprinkling of such costume, too, may be seen in connexion with the



**WELCOME TENANTS OF THE ROOF FLAT IN A CARPATHIAN HOUSEHOLD**  
 Seated in the doorway, near his mother, busily spinning, is the son and heir, the pride of this humble home; on the roof, where bundles of flax are drying in the sun, is another family whose advent was heralded with delight. In their huge nest, Mr. and Mrs. Stork have reared two sturdy youngsters, and although they cause damage to the crops, the Ruthenian welcomes them as birds of good omen

*Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough*

wonderful performances given on Sundays and holidays at the open-air theatre of Sharka, a few miles out of Prague. Here, in a natural amphitheatre, audiences of several thousands of people indulge the very pronounced national delight in opera and drama, the performances taking place against a natural background of hills and woodland, while the countryside itself is utilised as a veritable extension of the stage.

Wherever we go we may still see something of the great variety of national costume that is maintained, if to a lessening extent, throughout the ancient kingdom of Bohemia; at Pilsen, though a great manufacturing centre; at Tabor, at Budejovice, at Domazlice,

and at scores of other old towns from the Giant Mountains to the Bohemian Forest. To stroll about the great market-place at Pilsen, for instance, on a market-day, is to see a goodly range of colouring in the costumes of the peasant women, though various kinds of red will be found to predominate.

In this part of the country the many petticoats that are worn give to the short dresses the effect of crinolines; white or red stockings, skirts and aprons of many bright colours, colour-embroidered bodices, and great variety of coloured head kerchiefs are also to be seen. Remarkable, indeed, is the variety of decorative embroidery, still revealing in general style and character the Slav origin of the people; though seemingly





*CZECHOSLOVAKIA: DAUGHTER OF A COLOURFUL PEOPLE*

The brilliant splashes of vivid colour, the rich golden embroideries, and the lovely face of the peasant girl, make of this national dress of Czechoslovakia a thing of beauty





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infinite in the character of its details, it is probably repeating through many successive generations of peasant workers the basic patterns of the original Czechs.

In Southern Bohemia the costumes are not less striking, though the women's skirts have not the crinoline fulness noticed in the districts of which Prague and Pilsen are the centres; while some of the men wear fur-edged jackets often richly embroidered, others wear long black jackets and broad-brimmed hats, approximating in appearance to those of some of their Germanic neighbours. Some of the most striking costumes still to be seen are to be found about the Bohemian Forest district. At Domazlice, for example, where are the Chods, the lineal descendants of the ancient Bohemian borderers, the manners, customs, and dress of the people are still those of medieval times. The men wear long coats with close-set buttons, often extending from neck to ankle, and large broad-brimmed hats,

while the women's brightly-coloured full gowns and close-fitting caps with huge lace side bows or "wings" are remarkable. The beautiful "dove" headdress of some of the Bohemian maidens is a white close-fitting cap or bonnet with wing-like extensions. While these marked costumes, varying in different districts, are still to a varying extent worn throughout the country, they have been brought to a focus in the great national museums, such as those of Prague and Pilsen, along with furnishings and implements characteristic of the different districts. Thus is the pride in national manifestations at once chronicled and stimulated.

Though in the past the Czechs under successive ambitious rulers have seen their kingdom at one time including a large part of Poland, and at another extending southwards to Carinthia, that was at a period when Germanic influence was for a while strong in the country. The Czechs themselves, as has been said, were largely an agricultural



WINTER SNOWS AMONG THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS

During the cold weather the Ruthenians wear sheepskins with long sleeves, and should a family not have sufficient means to provide a winter sheepskin for each member, the father's coat becomes common property, the wife and children wearing it in turns when the head of the house is at home. In the mountains the thermometer sometimes registers sixty degrees of frost, Fahrenheit, and unprotected ears and fingers are not infrequently sacrificed to frostbite

*Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough*





#### COUNTRYFOLK AND COBBLES IN AN OLD GALICIAN TOWN, RUTHENIA

The roads of the country formerly known as Galicia were noted for their rugged, furrowed surface; large boulders and deep ruts causing much discomfort to the occupants of cart or carriage unaccustomed to Galician thoroughfares. In this town, where the roads have been somewhat improved, the boulders have given place to cobbles, over which bare-footed peasants walk with utter indifference. On important market-days the square is a moving mass of vari-coloured countryfolk, all chatting volubly, and each intent on his neighbour's business as much as on his own.





# RUTHENIAN PEASANTS RESTING FROM THEIR TASK OF HOEING THE ROUGH CARPATHIAN HILLSIDES

Hospitable, hard-working, honest, are epithets of which the Ruthenians are justly deserving. The older generation retain many quaint customs; when meeting the "gentry" they bow profoundly, uttering a blessing or prayer, kissing the hand of a lady, or, failing that, her skirt. Ceremonial likewise exists among the members of their own class. One form of salutation is truly fantastic: "May you live a thousand years!" and the peasant thus addressed must give the regulation reply: "And may you come to my funeral!" It is clear that the advantage lies with him who speaks first

*Photo, Miss Florence Farnborough*





#### THE GAME OF WAR AMONG MINIATURE SOLDIERS OF THE CARPATHIANS

Real war has passed over their village, felling many a homestead in its devastating march. But the children still smile on, and their favourite game is "Soldiers." Their military caps, pathetic souvenirs of a war which was no game, represent Russia, Austria, and Germany, and the forgotten dug-out resounds with shrill childish voices, shouting fierce commands

*Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough*

people, though during the nineteenth century, in and about the chief towns, especially those in the centre and northern parts of the country, they had greatly developed industrially, and at the time of the Great War Bohemia was with Moravia the chief industrial portion of the crumbling Austrian Empire.

At the time of the Great War 31 per cent. of the whole Czech population was still engaged in agriculture, and not less than 51 per cent. of the total surface of the country was under plough cultivation—cereals, potatoes, and sugar-beet forming its principal crops.

The thoroughness of Czech cultivators is prettily illustrated by the fact that in many parts of the country the roads are converted into avenues of fruit trees, the abundant blossom of which in spring greatly enhances the beauty of the landscape. I recall being especially struck with this in a lovely tract of country about

Turnov—a tract that with its wonderland of fantastic eroded sandstone rocks close-grown about with trees is known as the Bohemian Paradise. Here, in the northern part of the country, though the close cultivation of such land as is available is still to be observed, agriculture has largely given way to the local industry of jewel-cutting and bead-polishing, the latter work being carried on in the homes of the peasants.

Passing through some of the hillside villages in this part of the country the roadway is seen to sparkle in the sun with many colours, where the fragments of broken beads have been thrown out from the peasant houses. These wooden cottage homes, with their wide overhanging roofs, are much like the chalets of Switzerland; within them all members of the family are frequently to be found engaged in one task or another in connexion with the bead industry.



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Though the cottages consist often of but two rooms, serving at once as living-rooms, bedrooms, and workrooms, they are for the most part kept wonderfully clean and neat, the few cooking utensils are brightly polished, the beds are neatly covered with their down quilts and lace.

The working of the less precious stones which are found in the country—and more especially of the garnet, for

which Bohemia is famous—is carried on in workshops in the towns of the north, and there the visitor may see great baskets of newly-faceted gems lying side by side, as in some Aladdin's treasure-cave. The Czech people, indeed, have proved their capacity for adapting themselves to new conditions by the way in which they have utilised technical education as a means of developing at



### JEWISH SWEETMEATS ARE THE DELIGHT OF COUNTRY PEASANTS

The highly-sweetened cakes of the town Jews find ready favour among the country-folk, one of whom is obviously enjoying the dainty, while the expression of dismay of an old Ruthenian woman indicates that coins are not over-abundant in her slender purse. The Ruthenians, little Russians who were formerly Austrian subjects, chiefly inhabited the Galicia of pre-war days

*Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough*





### LUSTY LADS OF THE CARPATHIAN HIGHLANDS

The broad belts of these burly mountaineers are the all-important feature of their costume; when small boys, the belts were mere straps which increased in breadth as the owners increased in stature. Their baggy trousers are of bright red and blue baize, and the taller peasant is wearing a narrow leather band studded with brass buttons, from which depends a beautiful old brass crucifix

*Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough*





#### MARKETING COUNTRY WARES IN A RUTHENIAN TOWN

On the cobbles, in front of the Jewish shops, they sit in the glaring sun, a long row of bronzed, healthy, colourful Ruthenian peasant women, chattering vivaciously the livelong day. Nor are they distressed if the country produce with which they have tramped many miles attracts but few customers, for these simple-souled folk welcome dull and bright days with happy-go-lucky indifference

*Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough*





# PIGS AND PEASANTS: A COUNTRY MARKET-PLACE AMONG THE CARPATHIAN HILLS

The well-to-do Ruthenians possess much live-stock, and even the poorest peasants are seldom without a pig. If they possess but one living-room there is always a corner for the pig, which not infrequently shares the wooden cradle with the youngest child. The young porker is carried to market in a sack slung over the shoulder; when fully grown, a rope is tied to a hind leg, and with a thick stick he is guided, none too gently, to his destination

*Photo, Miss Florence Farnborough*



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once the industries and the industrial workers. They have recognized the value of closely linking such education with its practical application in workshop and factory.

The character of a people is revealed to no small extent by its attitude towards education, and here it is generally acknowledged the Czechs occupy a very high place. They were early in realizing the importance of technical training; industrial schools were set up even in small centres of less than three thousand inhabitants, so that the young people might supplement their ordinary education by a proper training in that local industry with which they would probably come to be associated, whether the making of glass and various kinds of china—for which the country has long been famous—or in developing some of the newer industries; such as that connected with treatment of the now extensively grown sugar-beet.

This practicality—to use a word of which they seem especially fond—appears to be a strong characteristic of the Czech race; it may be recognized in the way in which the language was saved by the national leaders when the submergence of the people under a dominating Germanism seemed on the verge of accomplishment; it may be recognized also, I think, in that remarkable organization of young manhood and young womanhood of the nation known as the "Sokols." Here Czech leaders adapted from their Teuton rivals the idea of the gymnastic society, and utilised it as a means of training their people not only in the way of physical fitness, but in the way also of moral purpose, and adapted it furthermore to the quickening and stimulating of national and racial pride.

Some day, perhaps, the story will be told of the influence of the Sokol movement on the gaining of Czech independence in the Great War. The Sokol organization was begun in 1862, and developed with extraordinary rapidity. It took its name from the falcon (sokol in Czech), its motto being "Let us be strong," and its greeting "Good luck,"

and it was thoroughly democratic in character, the members of whatever social rank being regarded as a band of brothers and sisters. Its moral teaching I once heard tersely indicated in the words, addressed to one about to stoop to get under a fence: "A Sokol gets over or goes through, but never goes under."

Every Czech centre came to have its Sokol, and the periodical gatherings,



ONE OF THE OLDEN SCHOOL

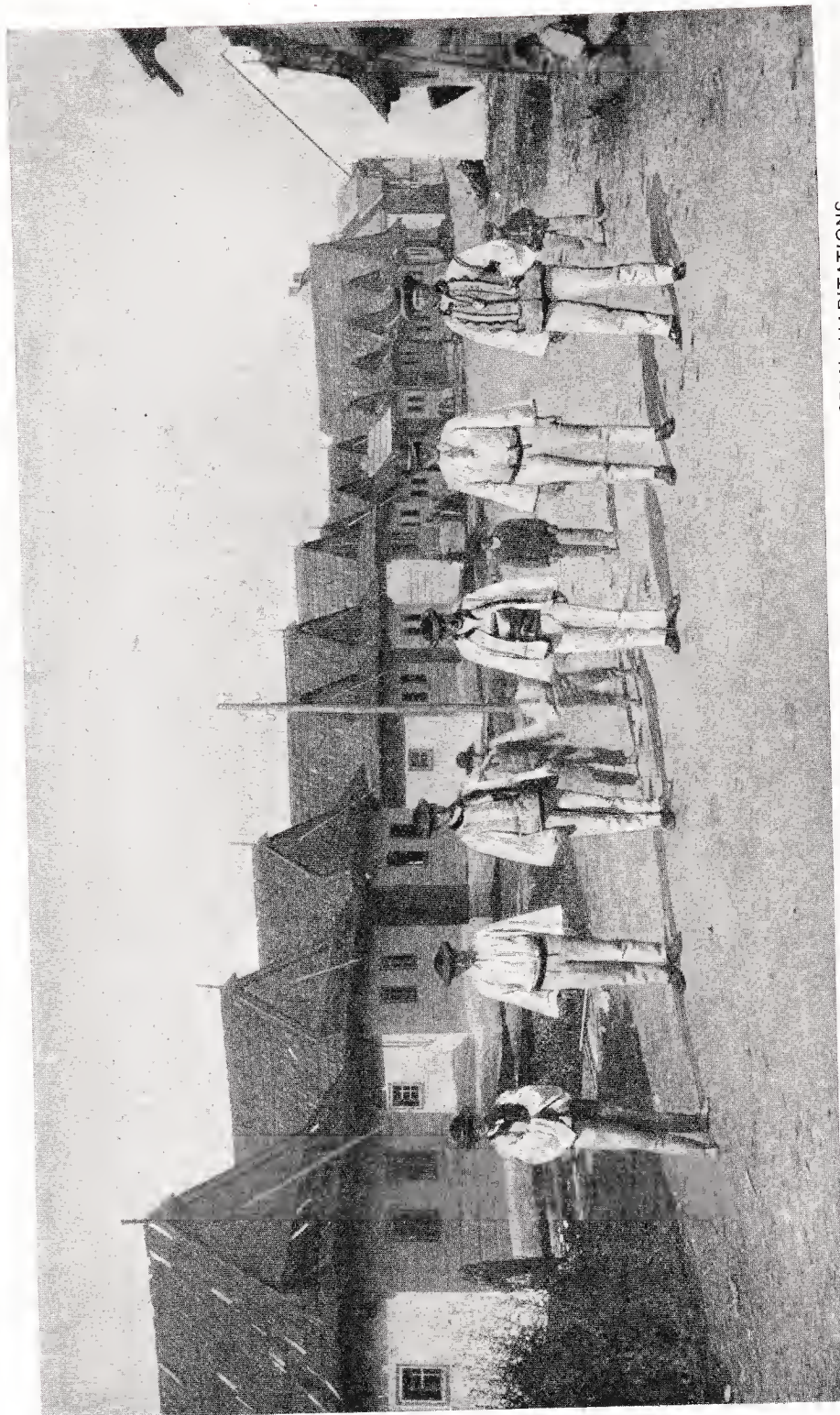
Somewhat slow to imbibe fresh ideas, he, with his fellow-countrymen of Podkarpatska Rus, represents the conservative element of the new Republic of Czechoslovakia

*Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son*

such as those in Prague in 1912 and 1920, have brought tens of thousands of them together from all over the world. In 1920, for example, a massed drill was done by 12,000 men and another by 12,000 women. The special Sokol dress for the men is a loose fawn-coloured jacket, often worn hussar-fashion, over a red shirt, directly derived from that of the Garibaldians, and a round fawn cap bearing two falcon feathers.

In Moravia, the central portion of Czechoslovakia, are found among the population of about two and a quarter





# MEN OF A MODEL VILLAGE IN SLOVAKIA WITH THEIR SPICK AND SPAN HABITATIONS

The term Czechoslovak comprises two branches of the same Slav nation : the Czechs of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, and the Slovaks of Slovakia. The illiteracy of the Slovak was proverbial, but it was deliberate. Ordered by the Magyars to learn a hated tongue, they preferred to remain untaught, and there is no doubt but that these frugal and industrious people—true Slavs in faults and virtues—will develop amazingly in the free air of the new republic

*Photo, Dr. V. Sista & Son*





#### VENERABLE INMATES OF A HOME FOR THE AGED AND POOR

The days pass smoothly for them now in this, their last earthly home. The institution, supported entirely by voluntary gifts of food and money, stands by the highway at Pöstyén, and its aged members may often be seen sitting on the low bench skirting its walls. They are permitted to ask alms of passers-by, and many a kindly person drops a coin in the box placed under the crucifix

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

millions beside Bohemian Czechs, other peoples of closely allied Slav origin, of whom the Horaks and Hanaks are particularly interesting as having more markedly maintained their old-time costumes and customs. Their country is a mountainous, irregular, but very fertile, plateau, mainly watered by the river March, with a general slope to the south, and bordered on the three other sides by mountains. About a quarter of the country is still under forest, principally oak and pine. The people are for

the most part engaged in agriculture, and carry on extensive dairy-farming, but they also occupy themselves to a considerable extent in various home industries, more especially in weaving and the making of woodwares.

On the whole they may be regarded as a less progressive people than the Czechs of Bohemia, possibly owing to the way in which Moravia was long exploited by Austrian nobles as a favourite place in which to establish their country seats and engage in wild



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boar battues and other sports. Political and economic matters, too, were long controlled almost wholly by the Germans and the Jews who had settled in the towns, and, though a minority, obtained a paramount position.

The Horaks, who occupy the high lands, are a somewhat taller people than their Czech neighbours on the immediate

in that the men as well as the women have largely retained the varied attire of tradition. For where the peasantry of different countries are concerned it is among the women that local peculiarities of dress are longest continued, the men earlier falling under the influence of the stiff and unpicturesque monotony of general

European clothing. White shirts and brilliantly coloured and richly embroidered vests, sleeveless jackets with an abundance of bright buttons, small hats wreathed with feathers or flowers—these are some of the features of the native dress still to be seen in common use among the men. It has, indeed, been suggested that nowhere so much as here is it possible to see a brilliant variety of attire so suggestive of the exaggerations of comic opera.

The people of Moravia, who for centuries suffered from the invading neighbours who successively gained power over their country, long occupied a position of actual serfdom, followed by conditions scarcely removed from that owing to the country being largely the property of the territorial magnates to whom the workers on the land were of little more significance than their cattle. Thus it is



CHILDREN OF UNMISTAKABLE NATIONALITY

There are some 360,000 Jews in Czechoslovakia; those who inhabited the country formerly known as Galicia are strictly orthodox, and the lock of hair down the side of each cheek is still characteristic of both young and old

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

west; while the Hanaks of the valleys are of a stockier build. In the mountains of the north-east the shepherd people are Vlachs. It is among the Moravians—to employ the conveniently comprehensive geographical word that embraces the different peoples of the country—that picturesque national costume has been preserved more conspicuously than in most other parts of Central Europe. This is perhaps the more noticeably so

that the Moravian peoples are as a whole less advanced than their Czech brethren, though in their new conditions educational and cultural opportunities are being rapidly increased, and they are taking their places in industrial work which had long been in the hands of the German and Jewish settlers in the country. The language spoken is mostly Czech dialect, but the literary language is Czech, and this fact and the



# CZECHOSLOVAKIA:

## *Its Picturesque Peasantry*



*Bare-headed he passes before a wayside shrine. Even in the wilds of the Carpathians there is no lack of reverence for things sacred*

Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough





*This sweet-faced girl of Czechoslovakia, arrayed in the beauteous handicraft of peasant artistry, is a veritable queen of loveliness*





*Her rich beauty and flashing grace are enhanced by the delicate designs richly emblazoned in vivid colouring on her national dress*





*Under the watchful eye of his eldest sister the baby sleeps tranquilly in his improvised cradle, while, with free arms and an easy mind, the young Slovak mother attends to her arduous duties in the field*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*Her rich beauty and flashing grace are enhanced by the delicate designs richly emblazoned in vivid colouring on her national dress*





*The modest beauty of the Slovak peasant home is portrayed in this mother and child, its industry in the golden maize-cobs overhead*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*Despite the hot sun shaggy sheepskins are numerous in this Slovak market. "Comfort while you wait" is the motto of these peasants, who pass many patient hours before the sacks are emptied of their grain*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*Colour runs riot on market days, but the sheepskin, with its elaborate floral designs, is the crowning feature of a Ruthenian costume*

Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough





*The pleasant smiling faces of this homely peasant group are an earnest of the hospitality never lacking in the humblest Slovak home*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*The stolid peasant woman of Moravia and red-faced farmer's wife of Slovakia are transformed into picturesque personages when attired in their highly-decorative and brilliantly-coloured national costumes*

Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son





*The dull brown haystack is a fitting background for this quiet-faced peasant and his comely daughter of the Carpathian Mountains*

Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough





*They roam the Carpathians with their flocks, shy young shepherd lads, understanding the language of Nature better than that of man*

Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough

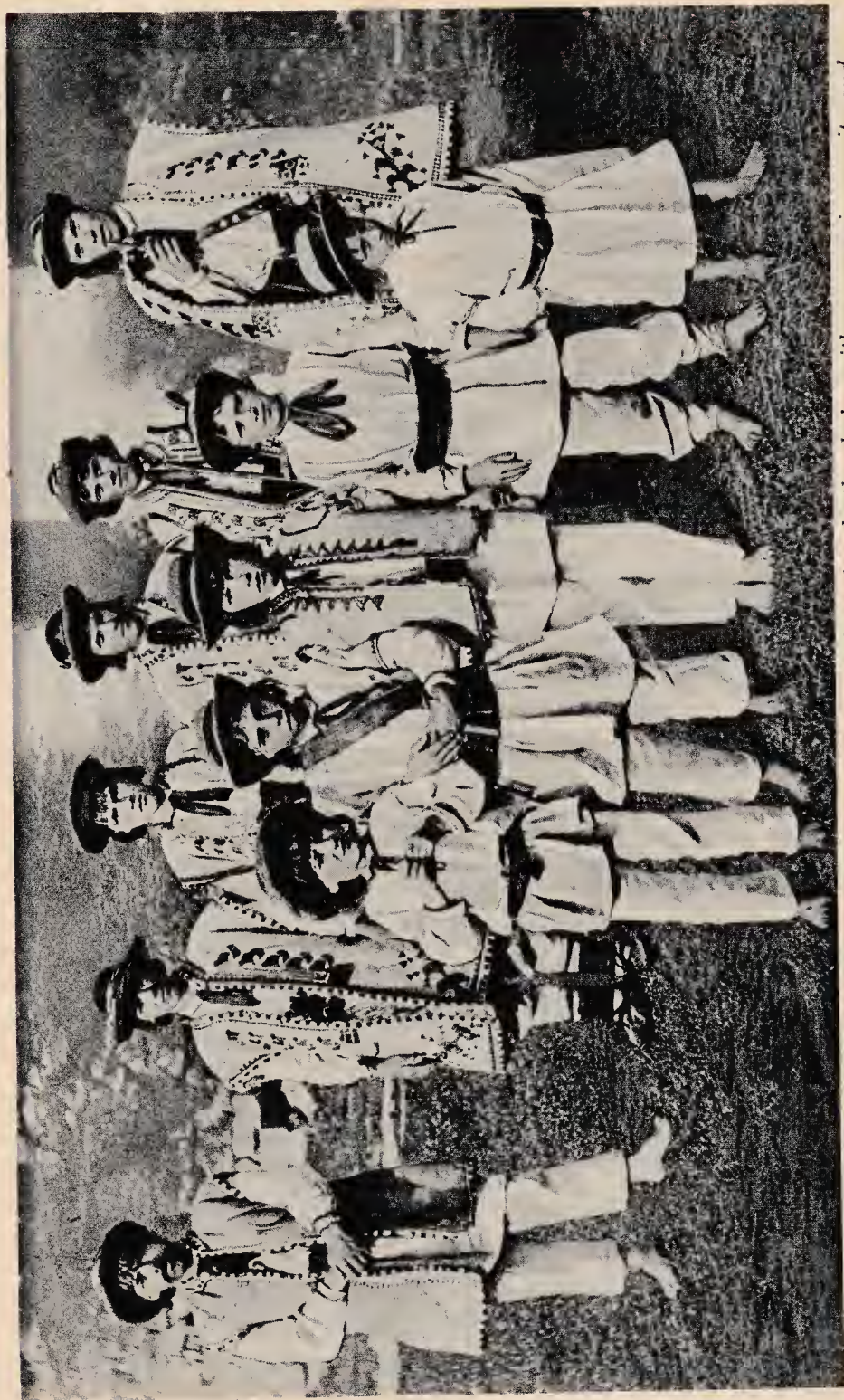




*An amazing skill and an artistic taste, combined with natural feminine instinct, enable the Czechoslovak girl to choose from myriad brilliant costumes the particular dress that can accentuate her charm*

Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son





*The Sabbath day is the dandy's day in Ruthenia, and after church the lads, with swaggering gait and many sidelong glances, parade their smartest sheepskins and newest homespun through the village streets*

Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough





*Through the quiet Slovak village the procession slowly winds, softly chanted prayers solemnising this holyday of a dear dead saint*





*Attired in the ancient costume of her grandam, this tiny tot indicates the importance of the occasion by her right regal deportment*





*In high boots, wide, white fringed trousers, embroidered waistcoat, coat loosely hung over left shoulder, and low-crowned almost brimless hat, the average yokel of Slovakia is not wanting in rustic style*

Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son





#### OVERFLOW SERVICE OUTSIDE THE CROWDED CHURCH

This is no unusual Sunday morning scene at Pöstyén. The great interior of the Roman Catholic Church is already packed, and the late arrivals are forced to remain outside. There is no "fine-weather" religion, as may be seen from the open umbrellas, for, despite falling rain, the knee is bowed alike on the paved floor of the sacred building and the muddy ground of its courtyard

*Photo, A. W. Culler*



## CZECHOSLOVAKIA & ITS PEOPLES

unifying of the educational system of the new state will probably together help to break down the dialect differences which at present are most marked in the eastern part of the country.

By its missionary zeal a Protestant sect which developed out of the Hussite movement of the fifteenth century came to be widely known in Western Europe, and later in America, as the Moravian Church (also as Moravian or Bohemian Brethren). Driven out of the country of its origin by reactionary persecution, it established settlements first in Germany and later in England and America, where it still maintains several centres.

The Slovaks or Slovakians who are linked with the Czechs in the name of their new joint state are about two and a half million in number, most of them occupying that eastern portion of the Republic which is formed in part of the mountains and valleys of the Carpathian system, including the High Tatra. It is only recently that the name Slovakland or Slovakia has been given to the tract of country mainly inhabited by the Slovaks, for they have never formed an independent state, though they have managed to maintain their racial individuality since they first occupied the country. By some authorities they are regarded as part of the original Czech tribes that passed westward from their fellow Slavs in the fifth century; by others it is claimed that they were a distinct branch of the Slavs who actually preceded the Czechs in their western march. This last claim is made on the ground that the language of the Slovaks is the nearest of all

modern tongues to the Old Slavonic. Though for centuries the Slovaks were under the close domination of Hungary they have not become Magyarised—indeed, they have tended rather to absorb others than to be absorbed, and have maintained their



**FLOWERED RIBBONS OF BRIDAL HEADDRESS**

The little Slovak bride turns aside her smiling face that the countless multi-hued ribbons, of which she is justly proud, may be seen to full advantage, but her corsage embroidery is no whit less gorgeous than these silken bands

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

characteristics even where they have passed into the southern parts of Hungary and formed settlements.

The Slovaks are for the most part Carpathian mountaineers and dwellers in the Little Alföld, that Danubian plain which stretches to the east of Bratislava. Their preference is for maintaining themselves by sheep and cattle breeding. They are, generally speaking, a very much simpler, more superstitious, less



## CZECHOSLOVAKIA & ITS PEOPLES



### ON HER WAY TO THE FIELDS

This farmer's wife cuts a neat figure as she walks along with her husband's appetising dinner in the tin cans, carried in practical Slovak fashion by one handle

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

educated race than the Czechs of Bohemia and Moravia, with a language of their own that has produced but a slight literature. Quiet and even subdued in manner, they are kindly, contented, and extremely industrious. Mostly they are small farmers pursuing their tasks by somewhat antiquated methods, though a few years ago, when visiting Bratislava, I was struck by the many modern agricultural implements that were finding their way into the country through that pleasant old market centre.

Many of the Slovaks become wandering workers, going down to the great grain-growing plains in harvest-time, and also to Germany and even so far as Denmark; others, as itinerant tinkers, go wandering about Austria, Hungary, and Southern Russia, carrying the

implements of their trade and doing their work by the wayside. Numbers of the Slovak girls, too, were wont to seek work in Vienna and other cities as nursemaids. In their gay national costume, white bonnets, short dark jackets, short skirts, gaudy aprons and stockings, they added an attraction to the streets of the capital, and were valued by the Austrian aristocracy that employed them.

In material comforts and conveniences these people are poor. They are in an overwhelming majority a rural population contented with simplicity of life, and seemingly ready to journey any whither in search of work. Their favourite dish consists of rye bread soaked in water, with eggs and sheep's milk added, and the simplicity of their life is reflected in the frequent addition



### RUSTIC YEOMAN OF SLOVAKIA

The tattered coat has seen long and honourable service, and the comical loose trousers were once actually growing in his garden-plot—in the form of hardy hemp plants

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*





#### STURDY TRIO OF MOUNTAIN-BRED PEASANT WOMEN

In the Carpathian villages, strapping young women are plentiful; many of them are extremely handsome when young, but the wear and tear of outdoor life—for much of the field labour is done by women—wrinkle and discolour their faces unmercifully. After marriage the women bob their hair and fasten their kerchiefs behind the head, not under the chin as is customary with unmarried girls

*Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough*





FAMILIAR SCENE IN THE COUNTRY DISTRICTS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE HEMP HARVESTS

After the steeping, the retting process takes place in order to destroy cohesion among the fibres by rotting. When the membrane, or rind, becomes loose, it is a sign that the stalks are sufficiently macerated, and then, thoroughly dried in the sun, they are beaten on a block of wood by a wooden mallet, and lightly chopped with a long wooden chopper. These processes demand much patience, for the peasant knows no labour-saving devices in the linen-making industry

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*





#### WATER-RETTING THE HEMP ON A RIVER-BED OF RUTHENIA

The methods of gathering and preparing hemp are very similar to those of flax, but it is a hardier plant than flax, grows to a height of several feet, and does not possess the same pliability. Hemp makes very coarse linen, flax the best and finest; the fibre is obtained from the stalks and consists of the bast beneath the bark. When ripe, the stalks are pulled and immersed in water



#### HAND-LABOUR PREPARING THE FIBRE FOR THE SPINNING-WHEEL

In a corner of their field this countryman and his wife, aided by their simple implements, are taking turns at scutching the hemp fibre. The broken, ravelled, and short fibres which separate out in this process form tow. The Ruthenians cultivate this annual herb very extensively, and most of their coarse linen garments are manufactured at home from the hemp grown on their small holdings

*Photos, Miss Florence Farmborough*





WHERE THE HOPE OF THE YOUNG REPUBLIC LIES DREAMING

The beautiful country districts of Czechoslovakia have a fascination all their own. Among the whirring shuttles of the cottage home, the pastoral scenes in the valleys, the pine-clad slopes, the song of romance is never stilled, and the hearts of these humble women are stirred by strange hopes and ambitions as they watch the peaceful baby face of him who will one day be a man

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*





INGENIOUS METHOD OF BLEACHING THE MATERIAL HOME-GROWN AND HOME-SPUN BY THE PEASANTRY

Innumerable yards of this coarse linen are placed on the river banks. The peasant girls, with earthenware bowls, throw water upon the material, which dries quickly in the hot sun, when it is again saturated and dried until sufficiently bleached. The various processes in the manufacture of linen, sowing, pulling, steeping, retting, scutching, cleaning, spinning, weaving, and bleaching, are carried on entirely within the limits of the peasants' premises, and all by members of the family

*Photo, Miss Florence Farmborough*





# VOLUMINOUS SKIRT-TROUSERS OF THE MEN AND BOYS OF THE OLD BOHEMIAN PEASANTRY

Wider even than the women's petticoats were the trousers worn by the menfolk, and these, hanging loosely, could scarcely be distinguished from skirts, but being home grown and home-spun were not censured as an extravagance. Owing, however, to the straightened economic condition of the country consequent upon the Great War, the matter of clothing was subjected to very strict control, and these extraordinary trousers are consequently disappearing from view, their place being taken by a less extensive substitute

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*





#### PAIR OF OLD CRONIES FROM KRUPINA IN SLOVAKIA

The latter years of their lives are being blessed with comparative peace and plenty. They have passed through many vicissitudes together, and now, freed from the Magyar yoke, are bent on promoting the prosperity of their country. The Slovaks are a simple, religious, and industrious folk, skilful in all domestic manufactures, but mostly prefer to occupy themselves with cultivating the land

*Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son*





#### OPEN-AIR RENDERING OF A BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

The brodered shirts and wide loose trousers lend a picturesque touch to these peasant musicians, whose curious home-made wind instruments can produce such remarkably tuneful melodies. In matters of taste and skill in the fine arts, the Czechs rank very high indeed. The love of music is universal among them, and their music is well known throughout the world, a fact largely due to the superb creative work of Smetana and Dvořák

*Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son*

to an invitation to a wedding: "Bring your own plate and knife and fork"—a custom which is fairly general in the country districts of Hungary.

The most densely populated part of the country is the south-western, and the simplicity of the lives of the people is well seen on a market-day at Bratislava, the largest of their towns. Hither, drawn by buff-coloured bullocks, come long, narrow wagons with wattled sides laden with various vegetables, while the peasant cultivators, craftsmen, or dealers group themselves about the irregular market-place of the old town according to the wares of which they have to

dispose. At one place are the sellers of bread in many forms, at another the dealers in drapery and haberdashery, or sellers of boots and shoes. A little beyond are the dealers in fruit and vegetables, conspicuous among which are the mounds of dark green-skinned melons, with here and there a broken one revealing the beautifully contrasting purplish red flesh within, and the broad baskets or tubs of paprika, a delicately flavoured red pepper greatly used in this part of Europe.

All about are peasants from the surrounding country, who bring in sometimes wares that can gain them





#### PLEASING TYPES OF THE PEASANTRY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

So early as the fifth century the Czechs inhabited as an independent nation the territories of the ancient kingdom of Bohemia, and now, owing to the overthrow of the old order in Europe, Czechoslovakia has again, after centuries of vassalage, become a free country. Here are a few representatives of the class whose wonderful ability has gained for their country the title of "Treasure House of Peasant Art"

*Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son*



#### FOLK-DANCING AT A HOLIDAY FESTIVAL IN PRAGUE

Even in the early medieval period the Bohemians were renowned for singing and dancing, and folk-songs and folk-dances have never lost their hold on them, and it is to the peasants, fixed to the soil by serf-laws, that the national music of Bohemia owes its preservation. Many well-known "Hungarian Rhapsodies" are merely the captivating measures that sing of stamping boots and voluminous skirts whirled in the picturesque dances of the Czechoslovak peasant

*Photo, Rudo Bruner-Dvorak*



## CZECHOSLOVAKIA & ITS PEOPLES

but a few halfpence, such as a handful of beans of various kinds, three or four dozen tomatoes, good, bad, or indifferent; while grouped at one point are women with small heaps of fungi, unknown to British culinary art—"toadstools" of all shapes and sizes and colours. Though one or two striking costumes are to be seen—somewhat similar in brightness of colour and fulness of petticoats to those of central Bohemia—one is struck by the absence of any marked characteristic of local dress.



### RICH FEMININE APPAREL OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

With her arms akimbo, this fresh-faced maid presents a delightful picture in the gay costume of her race, which, with its ribbons, laces, embroideries worked by her own deft fingers, and floral decorations runs the whole gamut of brilliant colours

*Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son*

The various coloured headkerchiefs are much the same as those to be found in the neighbouring countries, while the two dominating notes of colour are "butcher's blue" in the women's gowns and a warm yellow brown in their kerchiefs.

More marked examples of local dress are to be found in the smaller villages and on occasions of special festivals. In their homes the Slovak men, who keep their hair long and shave both beard and moustache, wear a coat of white baize with a broad leather girdle, sandals, and wide-brimmed hat. The women, whose coloured dresses are often richly embroidered, are famous for this kind of work.

Despite the poorness and simplicity of their lives, the Slovaks show in their customs and traditions that they are agreeably romantic, even poetical in their imaginations, as maybe recognized in the way in which a marriage proposal is made. One evening the lover and his best man knock at the door of the house where the girl lives, and say that they are looking for a star. They are asked to enter and look round, and as soon as the girl sees them she leaves the room. "That is the star we seek," they say to the parents. "May we go in search of her?" When she is found and brought back the best man makes a long speech about the institution of marriage from the time of Adam and Eve, and the betrothal is solemnly performed.

The narrow easternmost end of Czechoslovakia is inhabited mostly by Ruthenes or Ruthenians, of whom there are about





**YOUTH AND AGE CHEERFULLY BEARING THEIR ALLOTTED BURDENS**

Among the stately buildings steeped in ancient lore of Zlata Praha (Golden Prague), as the Czechs call their beloved capital, weighty matters dealing with the welfare of some 13,000,000 people are under discussion; but in the country places, where the world is at rest and time stands still, simple lives are being lived in artless fashion, scarcely conscious of the teeming world around them

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*





#### MEN OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN NATIONAL DRESS

Thick white baize trousers, linen shirts, broad leather belts, short sleeveless sheepskins, and round felt hats decorated with coloured flowers or rooster feathers, form the usual picturesque garb of the young countrymen. Mostly of medium stature, they possess strong and vigorous constitutions



#### POLYCHROME PROCESSION OF CHURCH-GOING PEASANTS

The native costumes of Czechoslovakia are a delight to the stranger, whose eye may feast on an unparalleled diversity of colour. The Sabbath Day in Slovakia is a picture difficult for the most skilful artist to paint, so bewildering is the array of garish costumes, and it would be an everlasting pity should this beautiful apparel be sacrificed for the sombre garments of present-day European fashions

*Photos, Dr. V. Sixta & Son*





#### MOUNTAINEER OR BUCCANEER?

This is no reckless, lawless brigand, but a kindly, honest farmer of Slovakia, who has never been far outside his hamlet, and whose only luxury is a pipe

*Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son*



#### SEASONED SLOVAK VETERAN

The Slovaks seldom wear beards or moustaches, but their hair, when long enough, is often braided, as is seen on this fine, weather-beaten old head

*Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son*

half a million occupying an autonomous district of the republic. They are mainly a poor and backward people, forming mostly the labouring class. The weaving of linen is pursued as a household industry throughout Ruthenia, and the peasants are now being encouraged to develop the manufacture of wood articles, furniture, and paper, and to start factories of their own. Sometimes described as Little Russians or Red Russians, they form but a small part of this Ukrainian branch of the Slav race, most of whom are found in the neighbouring Polish Galicia or the Rumanian Bukowina.

These different peoples that are now brought together in one state, the Republic of Czechoslovakia, as a result of the Great War, represent, as we have seen, distinct differences in their stages of cultural progress. The most advanced are undoubtedly the Bohemian Czechs, and as we pass eastwards we find the standard attained a lower one, the condition of the mass of the people more

primitive. Despite differences of education and intelligence they have, however, the link of common racial origin, and as they held together in their aspirations for independence, it may be anticipated that with new conditions and enlarged opportunities they will attain to something of an actual national unity.

It was of happy augury that the first President of the Republic to be elected, Thomas Masaryk, should have been one whose father was a Moravian Czech, and whose mother was of mixed Slovak and German descent. Those of us who were present at the first gathering of the Parliament in Prague when Masaryk was elected, while realizing that the historic occasion was the culminating point of the aspirations of the vast majority of the peoples of the country, realized also that the large German population was likely to prove for some time a disturbing factor—not easily can such a people submit to the rule of those whom they have been accustomed to dominate.



The traveller who tells us that Naples is the glory of the earth never saw Budapest. The historian who speaks of Belgium as the cockpit of Europe knows nothing of Bohemia, where for a thousand years the irresistible force has battled against the immovable body. Bohemia, which has known in succession Charlesmagne and Svatopluk, Boleslaus of Poland and Henry of Germany, the Mongol invader, Sigismund of the Council of Constance, the tools of the Vatican, Matthias the Just of Hungary, Ferdinand of Hapsburg, the Hussite War, the Thirty Years' War, the Seven Years' War, the Revolution of the '48, and the horrors of 1914-18 may surely claim a mournful pre-eminence in suffering and sorrow.

The claim is just. Behind her roll fifteen full centuries, centuries of uninterrupted strife—strife in aims, in religion, in culture, in speech, in civic polity; strife with a succession of Popes and a roll of emperors, with Arpad, Hohenstaufen, Hohenzollern, and Hapsburg. She has known martyrs, heroes, conquerors; she has never known rest. For this there are many reasons, but the one which counts is the axiom which underlay the politics of Central Europe, even down to the days of Bismarck, that "the master of Bohemia must be master of Europe."

#### Cleft by the Magyar Wedge

The main cause of this tearful destiny must be sought not in the pressure of German States, nor in the thunders of the Vatican, but in a circumstance bewailed by Palacky, her statesman-poet, in a memorable and poignant lament—the coming of the Magyar: "Slavdom never received a more fatal blow. . . . The Magyar, by driving a wedge into the heart of the State, destroyed it, and therewith all the hopes of the Slavs."

The effect of this irruption of the children of Attila—for so the Magyar claims to be—was even more decisive than Palacky, writing many years ago, claimed. The wedge cut off from their parent stem both the Balkan provinces and Bohemia herself, thus leaving the latter the unsupported outpost of Slavdom exposed to the hereditary German enemy. But for this the Slav would have presented an unbroken front through Strelitz to Kiel, even to Sweden, as witness the commemorative title of the Swedish kings to this day "and of the Wends" or Slavs. Cut off, pierced again and again by German oppression, these small communities were quickly swallowed up and lost.

Bohemia, more compact, self-contained, could not be annihilated, but she could be permeated. She could be penetrated. Thus her whole history of centuries offers the spectacle of a people exposed as to her outer relations to conquest, and as to her

inner relations to treason. Both factors, the factor of treason and the factor of force, the efforts of a minority within supported by the arms of a majority without, combined to impose upon her a cultus against which she perpetually rebelled. The history of continental Europe of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries is bound up with this question of the forcible superimposition of Teutonic ideals upon the small Slav peoples of Bohemia, Moravia, Poland, Slavonia, and Croatia.

#### Bohemia Bloody but Unbowed

All nations or peoples at some time or other have had their great moments, eras whose glories serve as inspirations to later generations and keep alive, even subconsciously, those qualities and aspirations which, held in common, go far to explain the baffling phenomenon which we call race-consciousness. Hungary and Serbia, Venice and Bohemia, fill the annals of the Middle Ages with stories of great conquests, dizzy pre-eminence, and resounding crash. Hungary gave law to Europe, even to the Vatican, until submerged by the Crescent. Serbia, in the heroic age of Dusan, dominated the Balkans until weakened by the "wedge," and conquered by the Turk. Venice fell to "the government which she deserved," and later to Napoleon and Austria. But to Bohemia has been reserved a history constant in the repetition of evils. And yet, though overrun, conquered, looted, and ravaged, she has never been subdued, not even at the epoch of the Battle of the White Mountain, which made her the slave of intolerant and illiberal Austria. There has never been a moment in her mournful past when the dogged and purposeful policy of the German invader was not matched and well countered by the equally dogged spirit of national resistance.

That, in brief, is Bohemian history.

#### Cycle of a Thousand Years

Until recent times there have been in Czech history no sharp dividing lines such as usually mark the evolution of a nation. On the contrary, phase melts into phase, the whole being insensibly leavened by external influences. There have been upheavals and convulsions; great, even fundamental changes, but these have run more or less in cycles and cannot be said to have had—each of itself—any permanent effect. It has taken a thousand years for the wheel to revolve full circle.

All these changes—ephemeral movements equally with basic alterations—are barometric, showing at any given time, the state of the battlefield, high or low pressure. At one period the Teutonic legions, bringing up their Vatican supports, bear down Czech resistance. At another



# Czechoslovakia

## II. The Long Struggle Between Czech and Teuton

By C. Townley-Fullam

Author of "A Land of Shepherd Kings"

IF we compare the phenomena born of the Napoleonic cycle with those reborn of the Hohenzollern epoch the similarity is striking. Equally striking is the divergence. Both cataclysms ended in disaster and in the shipwreck of ideals. Both were closed by international Treaties, but whereas the Treaty of Paris was the negation of 1789, that of Versailles was its reassertion. The former was the triumph of the dynastic and despotic theory; the latter of democratic ideals. There the divergence ends.

Each Treaty provided for new political groupings. Thus the grandchildren of that generation which saw the combination of Norway with Sweden and Holland with Belgium are now witnesses to the marriage of Serb with Croat and Czech with Slovak. But whereas the moving spirit which produced such strange coalitions at the Peace of Paris was purely dynastic, that which has brought forth the new political conceptions is simple race-consciousness. So much is this the case that those economic causes which were the mainspring of action in the case of greater powers left the smaller groups quite untouched.

The end of the Great War saw the old German Empire geographically intact; the new Austrian Empire was annihilated. Of the States formed out of the débris, by far the most important in extent as in political force is the entity now known as Czechoslovakia, a unit formed of the old kingdom of Bohemia, long directly subject to Austria, and the provinces eastward, inhabited by Slovaks, directly subject to Hungary. Though the Slovaks have had the honour of giving birth to such great men as Kossuth, leader of the Magyar Revolution; Petöfi, the poet of the '48;

and Kollar, the poet whose influence, strangely enough, was cast in favour of Bohemia and Pan-Slavism, the Slovak provinces never had a continuous political existence. The practical result is that the half—Bohemia—is, in terms of the Greek proverb, greater than the whole—Czechoslovakia.

If Slovakia cannot be considered in relation to Bohemia, neither can Bohemia be considered otherwise than in relation to Moravia, Hungary, Germany, Austria, and the Vatican. It would be less than true to say that these have influenced her destiny—they have made it.



PRETTY YOUNG GENTLEWOMAN OF SLOVAKIA

This dainty girl, in jaunty little fur cap, does not disdain the sheepskin coat, familiar among the peasantry of her country, for thus attired she is proof against the coldest wind

Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son





CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ITS PEOPLES

The Hussite War was little other than a racial struggle upon a convenient religious issue. Nor should it be forgotten that the Council of Constance which condemned Hus was not Eumenical. The sentiment of this age would hardly enrol it in the list of Councils at all. Its active president was a layman, the Emperor Sigismund, who brushed aside two Popes and himself created a third, the Emperor whom Hus had offended.

John Hus was tried under the forms of a Church Council for heresy. In truth he was tried by his own sovereign as a rebel upon an issue with which this generation is familiar. He was the first statesman to put forth the amazing and heretical doctrine of the self-determination of peoples. It was for that he was condemned—for that he died. To this generation has been reserved the spectacle of a world giving formal sanction to a principle for whose mere enunciation a Bohemian died in flames five hundred years ago.

If Hus was a greater statesman than Luther it was because he was a pioneer and he had a longer road to travel. Hus preceded Luther; more, he produced the Man of Wittenberg.

#### Influence of Hus and Luther

Taking full advantage of the recent establishment of the Prague University and the absolute parity, for the moment, of the Czech and German tongues, Hus set out to reform Czech orthography; he advocated the study of his own depressed language, wrote it, spoke it, and by so doing placed himself at the head of a racial movement which would have gathered way had he never been born. He never wrote German; if he turned now and then to Latin it was with the object of appealing to intelligences racially inimical but politically sympathetic. Luther reformed not only the German

religion but also the German language; he threw off a religious yoke which had become a political menace. In the interests of Germanism he offered battle to a foreign hierarchy. That that hierarchy should have been religious rather than political was the accident of circumstance. Luther ended in favour of the Empire one phase of the Guelph Ghibelline War.

Hus was dead, but Hus dead was stronger than Hus living, for the very Emperor Sigismund who burned him as a rebel was forced at last to banish from his councils both German and Catholic elements. To the Czech these were synonymous.

#### Period of Ruthless Persecution

But the tide ebbed again. The "Winter King," Frederick, was defeated in 1620 at the fateful Battle of the White Mountain, and for the moment a nation ceased to exist. There followed a persecution worse than any that Alva had tried in the Netherlands. A new German nobility was forced upon the country. Ferdinand, the Emperor, determined that none but Catholics should exist, reserved for himself the task of schooling the bodies of his lieges; their souls he handed over to the Jesuits.

Landlords were executed in bulk; the language was proscribed; only German was tolerated. The universities and schools were placed in the hands of that company the fame of which has come down in history associated with so many stories of cruelty and intolerance. Konias the Jesuit burned, with his own hands, 60,000 volumes. Those printed in Czech were not German; those printed in German were not orthodox; those printed in Latin were superfluous.

The tide turned again. "It is no mere coincidence to say that the Czech revival





#### PEASANT WOMEN OF TRENCIN, PROVINCIAL TOWN OF WEST SLOVAKIA

Their native town is situated on the River Vag, but, in their quaint Quaker costumes, they are typical of the women who are to be found in the surrounding valley districts, and in the beautiful wild regions of North Slovakia, amidst the High Tatra Mountains, which are the loftiest group of the Carpathian system, and rival the Swiss Alps in their magnificent scenery

*Photo, Dr. V. Sixta & Son*

the Czech phalanx, solid, impenetrable, by the mere power of inertia or weight of moral force, causes the German tidal wave to spend itself in useless effort. At yet another moment, as during the Napoleonic era, there is an armistice, both forces being submerged by a third. But there is never a Treaty of Peace.

It might be urged that this point of view loses much of its force when considered in relation to the outstanding feature of Czech history, the Hussite War. The ordinary view of that convulsion is that in an age when the shadow of the Renaissance brooded over Europe it was the inevitable result of a conflict between the whole armoury of the Papacy on the one side

and the heresy of a whole people, once under its spiritual jurisdiction, upon the other. It is put into a class with the struggles of the Albigenses and of the Lollards. Nothing is further from the truth. The Bohemian did not quarrel with the religion of Rome so much as with its exponents. The priesthood was wholly German; the monasteries were strongholds and watch-towers of the invader. The Church in Bohemia acquired the character not of a religious organization but of a political force whose weight was being thrown into the scale on the side of the German and against the Czech.

He who aids the enemy is himself the enemy.



# Dahomey

## Past & Present in the Old Slave Kingdom

By Frank R. Cana

Author of "The Sahara in 1915"

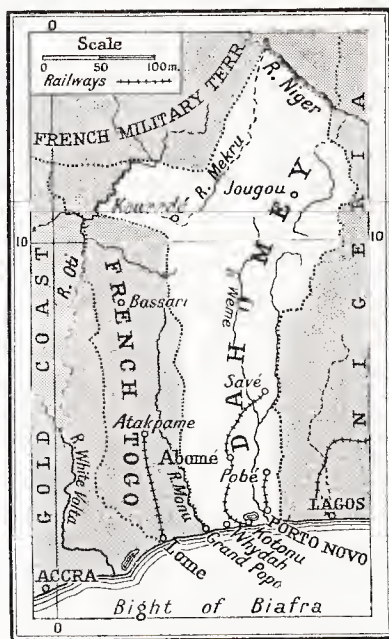
A GENERATION ago Dahomey was an independent state with an hereditary monarchy whose power was limited only by that of fetishism; it was notorious alike for its human sacrifices, its army of Amazons, and its incessant raids on its neighbours. French rule has, however, brought great changes; no longer are human sacrifices offered, neither are the skulls of fallen enemies used as drinking cups, or piled in pyramids as monuments of victory; the she-soldiery have been disbanded: the kingdom, built up by two centuries of conquest, has dissolved into its component parts.

But the Dahomian remains a type of those West African tribes who, cut off from contact with other parts of the continent, proved themselves capable of building up strong and elaborately organized states possessing a highly remarkable degree of civilization. Separated from the Sudan by a broad belt of virgin forest, they owed nothing, or next to nothing, to the infiltration of the higher types of African humanity. They owed, indeed, a good deal to the white man who came to the Guinea coast for ivory, gold, spices, and — principally — slaves. But their genius for government and their elaborate ceremonial were innate. No Oriental or European court ever had a more elaborate etiquette for state functions than had these

West Coast negroes, whose system was seen at its height alike in Ashanti, Dahomey, and Benin. Each of these states had its special features, and Dahomey was alone in maintaining a standing army and in making women professional soldiers.

The aspect of Dahomey is monotonous. The coast line is formed by a low, level, narrow strip of sand, against which the great breakers of the Atlantic roll continually. There are no harbours, and landing through the surf is still the general custom, though at Kotonu the French have built a pier where ships can unload. Behind the strip of coast lies a network of lagoons and swamps, mangrove-lined and forbidding. Beyond is the bush, giving place to forest proper, oil-palms and bamboos being conspicuous. The orange and citron trees, very numerous in some localities, were introduced by the Portuguese. To-day there is little big game in the forest, but when first known elephants were plentiful, as was also the lion.

The forest, too, is much thinner than it used to be. In the clearings the natives cultivate, often in large quantities, maize, millet, manioc, yams, and beans, and when it is realized that nearly all these things are not African but, like the oranges, were introduced by the early Portuguese, it will be admitted that the old slavers did not do evil only. The three essentially



DAHOMY



## CZECHOSLOVAKIA: HISTORICAL

dates from the suppression of the Society of Jesus." This is a terrible indictment.

Joseph II., the benevolent despot and doctrinaire with a passion for uniformity, by his ordinances and ukases directed to the supremacy of the German element merely produced a Czech revival. He proclaimed toleration for the Christian and banished the Jew to the Ghetto; made German the language of the schools, and endowed a Chair of Czech in Vienna!

For one brief period the tide receded. The abortive revolution of '48, itself a protest against the Holy Alliance, placed the Emperor once more in the only position which a Hapsburg could understand. Bohemia, like Hungary, became again the forcing-ground for absolutism, for govern-

ment by police spies and proscription. But the system failed. Nemesis provided that two branches of the German race should fall out and honest men began again to expect their due.

For the last fifty years the Czech has steadily waxed, the German as steadily waned, until at this moment it is safe to say that the day of German dominance in Bohemia is definitely over, not as the result of a clause in a Peace Treaty, but from more enduring economic and racial causes. If that be indeed so the Czech does right to place in the forefront of a small galaxy of national heroes who nourished him in the moment of hope and comforted him in the hour of despair the great names of Hus and Palacky.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA: FACTS AND FIGURES

### The Country

Independent Republic, bordering on Germany, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, and Poland. Established in accord with the Peace Treaties and comprising the former Austrian provinces of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, together with the upper part of Hungary known as Slovakia and Carpathian Ruthenia. The latter territory is autonomous in matters relating to provincial administration, schools and religion. For local administration the State is divided into twenty-two districts. Total area about 55,690 square miles. Population (1921), 13,595,816—67 per cent. Czechoslovaks, 22 per cent. Germans, 5.5 per cent. Magyars, 4 per cent. Ruthenians, and 1.5 per cent. others. Density of population 248 per square mile.

### Government

Democratic Republic, with two legislative Chambers—Chamber of Deputies, elected for six years and containing 300 members; a Senate comprising 150 members elected for eight years. Both Chambers are elected by direct ballot on the basis of equality of sexes, race, religion, and occupation, and in accordance with the principle of proportional representation. Voting is compulsory. President elected for seven years by the two Chambers assembled in joint session (exception being made in the case of President T. G. Masaryk, elected for life). He represents the State in its relations with other States, negotiates international treaties, convokes, prorogues and dissolves parliament, signs laws, appoints and recalls ministers, appoints all higher officers, officials and judges.

### Army

Conscription law provides for national army with two years' service; strength of standing army, 150,000. During service the men are given educational advantages in continuation schools, systematic courses of lectures, etc.

### Commerce and Industries

Mineral wealth enormous—gold, silver, radium, lead, iron, coal, lignite, graphite, salt, oil, etc.

Water power offers almost unlimited resources and is extensively utilised. Agriculture basis of large industry. In western provinces the growing of raw material for sugar, beer, malt and spirit industries most important branch of agriculture; in the eastern part chief crops are cereals. Moravian malt, Bohemian beer and hops have a good reputation in the world-market. Forests comprise 32 per cent. of whole area. Bohemian glass industry famous. Fancy goods, agricultural machinery, textile industries (four million spindles), paper, leather, and chemical are other industries. About 80 per cent. of the mines and industrial enterprises of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire are located in Czechoslovakia.

In 1920 imports were valued at 23,384 million Czech crowns; exports, 27,569 million crowns; credit balance, 4,185 million crowns. In 1921 imports amounted to 22,435 million crowns, exports to 27,312 million crowns, credit balance 4,877 million crowns. About 200 Czechoslovak crowns go to an English £ (pre-war parity 24.02). Czechoslovak crown the most stable currency in central and eastern Europe. In 1921 imports chiefly cotton and cotton goods, corn, flour, wool and woollen goods. Principal exports wool and woollen goods, sugar, cotton and cotton goods, iron and iron goods, glass, coal and timber. Most foreign trade is with Germany and Austria.

### Communications

There are about 8,500 miles of railways, mostly State-owned. River Elbe and its navigable tributary, the Vltava, connects Prague, the capital, with Hamburg. The Danube also touches the country, and Bratislava, the Czechoslovak port, is headquarters of the International Danubian Commission. Over 65,000 miles of telegraph line, and over 50,000 miles of telephone wire. 34,000 miles of roads suitable for motor traffic. Large sums being spent on new railway, telegraph, and telephone lines. In mountainous districts motor-car services being established.

### Chief Cities

Prague (Czech, Praha), the capital (population 676,000), Brno (221,000), Plzen (88,000), Bratislava (93,000), Olomouc (56,000), Kosice (52,500), Moravska Ostrava (42,000), Usti n.L. (39,000), Liberec (35,000).